



Sept 1853?

Ivory House

Friday Evg Sept 29th

My dear Sarah,



I hasten to inform you of my
well being as I know you will be
anxious. I arrived in town safe and
proceeded to the Ivory House, where
I asked for a room. What party had
I with me? - none. Had I not my
lady with me? - no - I was alone.
I saw my chance was I had me and
I dared to be put in a dungeon as
I was on a former occasion. I thought
myself of your advice and when the
book ~~was~~ was presented with my
name at full length - from
Swanwick - My dear Sarah,

I was ushered into an apartment on the first floor (second story) furnished with rose wood, yellow damask, pier glasses & a sumptuous bed room with a bed large enough for an alderman and his wife; a bath room adjoining - In a word I am accommodated completely en prince

The bigger waiters all call me by name and vie with each other in waiting on me. The Chambermaid has been at uncommon pains to put my rooms in first rate order and if she had been pretty I absolutely should have kissed her - but as she was not, I shall reward her in good coin. Henceforth I oblige

^{modesty}
all ~~diffidences~~ with hotel keepers and will get as much for my name as it will fetch. Kennedy calls it travelling on ones Capital.

I am at a loss where to go this evening. The Crystal Palace - Julius, or the Opera - I shall let you know before I go to bed my decision on the matter.

My dear Sarah, I have just returned; it is near 12 O'clock, they have made such a fire in my sitting room that it is impossible to sit there - and I am sleepy so I must be brief. I determined to go to the opera; but on the way, as it was early, I strolled into the P. M. Hotel; to take a look at it. It beats every thing of the Hotel kind I have ever seen. I wandered up stairs and down stairs and into the ladies chamber saloon - such splendour - such extent: such long corridors and vast saloons and such crowd of well dressed people - and beautiful ladies. In the course of my rambles

I came upon Mr. Baldarin, who is boarding there. He took all about to be the wanderer after horses and among other places took me into the bridal chamber about which so much has been said. It is very magnificent - but I am told has never been occupied excepting by a Californian Prince and his bride.

In passing along one of the corridors; full of gay company whom should I meet but Miss Grenville the young lady with the beautiful eyes; who introduced me to a man in the cars whom I was going on to Washington last winter and who I found out afterwards to be a daughter of one of my father's intimates in my youthful days. She was surrounded by beaux; but greeted me most cordially and told me her father was staying in the hotel and would be delighted to see me. I ~~was~~^{am} really sorry that my departure will prevent our meeting, but hope they may linger in New York until after my return. Mr. Baldarin accompanied me to the Opera. It was La Favorita - rather a heavy piece. Steffanone was the heroine and I was much pleased with her. Solvi was the hero - but he is too old to play the young lover - and I never fancied him much when I saw him in Madrid.

and he was eight or ten years younger.

On returning to the Hotel I found the land-
-lord waiting up to make my acquaintance.
-you are aware that I presume that Mr. Howard
is no longer the proprietor of the Inn; he has
made a fortune and gone to Europe. The
present proprietor is a very good looking
well mannered man, and was extremely
civil. He tells me the 8 o'clock train
is a kind of accommodation train to Phila-
-delphia. If I ~~take~~^{took} it I should have to wait
in Philadelphia an hour. Whereas the 9
o'clock train is an Express and goes
directly through. So I shall go by it. Had
I known this I might have come on in the
8 o'clock train from Bremen in the morning
and been in time. However I have passed my
evening pleasantly and am in excellent
quarters for the night.

Love to all bodies - I am going to take
a shower bath and then to bed

Yours affectionately Uncle

Washington Irving



SHR

Morning - After a good nights rest
a bath and a breakfast I went
to pay my bill when mine host
insisted on my being his guest for
this time at least - After some
demur I at last the concluded on
condition it should be only for this
time - otherwise I should not be
willing to come again to the house
- on these terms we ~~finally~~ agreed

~~George~~

W 39